

Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
Immigration Committee
July 11, 2017 at 10:30 AM
Delaware Community Legal Aid, Dover, DE

- I. The meeting was called to order at 10:35 AM. In attendance were Carolyn Becker (WPD), Laura Graham (CLASI/Committee Chair), Meghan Fisher (DOJ), Adrienne Owen (DSP), Carmen Mendez (WPD), Rachel Blesman (CLASI), Natasha Smith (DVCC), Akilah Seeney (DSP), Rony Baitazar (NAMI DE), Cindy Garcia (CLASI), Pedro Torres (LACC), Jane Curschmann (CLASI) and Aimee String (DVCC).
- II. Old Business
 - a. Resource Guide
 - i. A copy of the "Guide for Advocates Working with Immigrant Victims of Domestic Violence" was distributed to the committee for review. The document is available on the DVCC's website under the Immigration Committee.
 - ii. The Committee discussed the best way to begin the revision process. It was agreed that Aimee will send the document out electronically. All changes should be e-mailed to aimee.string@state.de.us by August 31st. Aimee will compile changes into the document so that it is ready to be presented to the committee at the September meeting.
 - iii. The committee agreed to separate the Guide and Resource List into two different documents. This will make it easier for individuals to find resources online and make it easier to update the document.
 - iv. We will no longer identify individual people as resources in the resource list due to turnover of staff.
 - v. It was suggested that in revising the resource list, we should break it down by county. This would make it easier for individuals to find the specific resources they need.
 - vi. Once the document is updated, the committee would like to ask the Coalition against Domestic Violence to link the document on their page as well.
 - vii. Add information or a link to information about the Driver's Privilege Card.
 - viii. Can we have the Guide and Resource list translated into Spanish and Haitian Creole? Aimee will speak to Moe about identifying any possible funding.
 - ix. Add page numbers to the document.
 - b. DACA
 - i. There is nothing currently happening but we will keep this item on the agenda for future updates.
 - c. Training, education and Outreach.
 - i. We are seeing a lot of confusion amongst the immigrant population with regards to deportation and changes in laws. The committee would like to continue to seek outreach opportunities.

- ii. The DVCC was able to partner with another state agency and will be present at the Delaware State Fair this year. If you have any materials that you feel are important to share, please let Aimee know.
- iii. Possible future outreach events:
 - i. Milford Festival (Food Festival, Riverfest (September 17th), Bug & Bud(last Saturday in April)
 - ii. Apple Scrapple (fall)
 - iii. Hispanic Festival (Georgetown): September 17th
 - iv. Hispanic Festival (Wilmington)
 - v. Indian Pow Wow
- iv. Carmen mentioned that she recently attended an event organized by the Mexican consulate. They have been very involved in going out to the community and doing events. The event was very well organized. The Committee would like to reach out to the Consulate and see if we are able to partner with them on future events or have them come speak to the committee about what they are doing.

III. New Business

- a. Natasha Smith who staffs Delaware's Fatal Incident Review Team spoke to the committee about a recommendation that Delaware do a Needs Assessment within the Immigrant Community. The assessment would identify barriers that individuals are facing. Options were discussed including a survey and focus groups. The committee noted that it is important to meet people where they are out. Faith based groups, shelters and existing groups may be good places to survey individuals. Anyone with further input should contact Natasha Smith (Natasha.smith@state.de.us). Natasha will keep the committee updated.
- b. It was mentioned that we still have some police agencies that will not sign a 918B for U-Visas. The committee believes that this is due to a lack of knowledge as to what it does and how it works. Adrienne Owen will provide Laura Graham with contact information for Delaware Police Chief's Counsel. The goal is that Laura can get 5-10 minutes in front of the police chief's counsel to explain what it is and offer a draft policy. Adrienne said that she would be willing to provide DSP's policy.
- c. There have been some changes to rules around parents who facilitate entry into the United States. The current administration wants to prosecute criminally and civilly. There is no clarification as to whether this could be retroactive. Families should consult an immigration attorney.

IV. Agency Reports

- a. NCC PD is getting two additional advocates. One of the advocates will be bilingual. The positions have not been posted yet.

- b. Literacy Delaware is hosting an Immigration Information Presentation on Thursday, July 20th at Woodlawn Library from 6:00-8:30. It is a free presentation and no registration is required. Presenters include attorneys Rick Hogan and Judith Munoz who will focus on immigration myths and truths, ICE, the Executive Order and how to get legal help. There will also be a time for questions and answers.
- c. There is a Hispanic Community Outreach Event being held on September 30th at the new library on Route 9 from 12-4pm.
- d. The LACC has had a change in Immigration Services. They are not currently doing VISAs.
- e. Rony Baitazar, Hispanic Programs Coordinator of NAMI DE was present at the meeting and shared that 1 in 5 Latinas suffer and mental illness yet there is a decrease in those seeking services. There is a Spanish Helpline (888-427-2643). All of NAMI's services are free. Rony can be reached at rbaltazar@namide.org or 302-427-0787.

V. Next Meeting

- a. Tuesday, September 12th at 10:30 AM at the DSP Museum.